

From the perspective of China's economic reforms, however, the effects of a decision not to award PNTR are less clear. A recent acceleration in free market reform is being driven by the prospect of WTO accession and by the objective requirements of an economy in urgent need of restructuring.

Neither of these two factors would, in theory, be affected by a refusal to normalise trade relations with the U.S. But in practice, there are distinct risks.

One is that conservatives and military hawks, empowered by a rupture in relations with the U.S. could convince Mr. Jiang to stall WTO accession and defer some of the more painful and controversial aspects of reform.

Such a scenario is far from unthinkable. Mr. Jiang is a master of compromise politics, and there is already some internal opposition to crucial reforms that appear to be whittling away the economic power base of the Communist party.

Perhaps that is one reason why Chinese dissidents such as Dai Qing are so in favour of PNTR. "Permanent normal trade relations would send the Chinese people a powerful message: the most powerful industrialised nation today will work with the Chinese people to build a new world order," said Mr. Dai.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4475) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concerns regarding the FY 2001 Transportation Appropriation rider, which would continue to freeze the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards at current levels.

The CAFE standards passed by Congress in 1975 comprise one of the most successful environmental policies enacted in the past thirty years. Fuel efficiency standards save consumers millions of dollars at the gas pump while decreasing pollution and U.S. dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oil. Current CAFE standards save more than 3 million barrels of oil per day, and more than \$40 billion at the gas pump each year.

While the current provisions have been effective, the increase in the number of light trucks and sport utility vehicles (SUVs) on the road warrants a revision of CAFE emission standards. Light trucks and SUVs now account for 47.5% of vehicles sold in the United States. Yet, they are held to a lower fuel efficiency standard than passenger automobiles. The result is that the fuel efficiency of vehicles sold in the United States has hit its lowest point since 1980. This is in itself circumvention of the policy path, as these vehicles are certainly a substitute for the family automobile.

When you add the freeze of CAFE standards, it compounds the energy inefficiency of our present policy and law.

The environmental benefits of reducing emissions cannot be underestimated. Holding SUVs to the same standards as passenger cars would reduce emission of carbon dioxide by 30 tons over the life of the automobile. Increasing CAFE standards for light trucks would reduce urban smog and the buildup of greenhouse gases, an important step in the battle against global warming. Furthermore, increasing CAFE standards would bring the United States closer to a 7% reduction from 1990 carbon dioxide levels, as required by the Kyoto Agreement.

The recent spike in oil prices highlights anew the need to reduce U.S. dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oil supplies. The United States has the technological capability to produce clean and efficient energy. It is essential that Congress support these goals, and stop prohibiting revision of CAFE standards. I urge my colleagues to work today to preserve the environment for tomorrow. Oppose the CAFE-freeze rider attached to the FY 2001 Transportation Appropriation bill.

RECOGNIZING TINA TAHMASSEBI OF DAVIE, FLORIDA

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Tina Tahmassebi, of Davie, Florida. Tina was recently honored by the Third Annual Seventeen/Cover Girl Volunteerism Awards as a first place prize winner in the 18–21 age category. Indeed, Tina is very deserving of recognition for her role in founding the Universal Aid for Children REACH OUT program.

The Seventeen/Cover Girl Volunteerism Award rewards and honors teens and young women who have made extraordinary achievements in the fields of volunteerism and public service. In concert with the Volunteerism Awards, Seventeen Magazine and Cover Girl Cosmetics Company have awarded more than \$90,000 in scholarship money, U.S. Savings Bonds and charitable donations. After examining Tina's extraordinary work, it is clear that her story exemplifies the tenets espoused by the Volunteerism Awards.

Tina founded the REACH OUT program while only a junior in high school. This student-run organization assists an orphanage and a vocational school in El Salvador by supplying medical supplies, office supplies, and clothing while simultaneously attending to the educational needs of the children involved in these programs. To purchase these much needed supplies, Tina and her group have held bake sales, car washes, and other fund-raising events. Shipping more than \$40,000 in relief to El Salvador to this date, Tina's efforts have undoubtedly made a lasting impression on those in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Tina Tahmassebi for her exemplary achievements in volunteering and public service. Tina

has made a remarkable impact on the lives of the children in El Salvador, and her hard work is something that both she and the entire community can be proud of.

COLORADO STATE HOUSE
REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY
GOTLIEB

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, Colorado Representative, Dorothy Gotlieb. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative Gotlieb's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the State House of Representatives in 1992, she has served on the Education, Transportation and the Energy Committees. Dorothy distinguished herself by working on issues concerning the budget. Dorothy pushes hard to make children the top priority in the legislature.

The number of honors and distinctions that Representative Gotlieb earned during her years of outstanding service are too numerous to list, too few to do justice to her contributions to the State of Colorado.

2000 marked the end of Representative Gotlieb's tenure in the State House of Representatives. Her tenure embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative Gotlieb a debt of gratitude and I wish her well.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN C. SAWHILL

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, May 18, our nation and our world lost a remarkable leader with the passing of John C. Sawhill, the president and chief executive officer of The Nature Conservancy.

I had the good fortune to work with John and his staff over the last three years as we developed the Tropical Forest Conservation Act—legislation designed to protect the world's most threatened tropical forests. Under John's leadership, the Conservancy provided us with the technical expertise, research and political savvy to help ensure that the TFCA was enacted into law.

During John's long and distinguished career in public service, academia, and the private sector, he held senior positions in the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administration; served as president of New York University; and was a partner in the international consulting firm of McKinsey and Company.

John joined The Nature Conservancy in January 1990. Under his leadership, the Conservancy grew into the world's largest private